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(1 - 15 January 1952)

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SUMMARY

Agricultural failings are attributed to lack of qualified personnel and the familiar inability to handle and maintain technical facilities. Much stress is laid on the cadre-training system and agricultural education courses. In industry, official attention is focused on the enormous waste and poor production quality resulting from the drive for higher production tempos. Inter-Party bureaucracy and lack of interest in Communist education predominate the output on Party activities. The 1951 All-Union Arts Exhibition revealed numerous artistic and ideological weaknesses. Discussion of ideological weaknesses in the Kazakh and Ukrainian Republics continues along familiar lines, and Turkmenia's ideology is scrutinized by the Central Committee of the Republic's Communist Party. Lack of progress in elementary and secondary schools is highlighted by a number of regional transmitters.

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AGRICULTURE

PRAVDA (11 January) calls upon all Party and agricultural officials to eliminate the "grave shortcomings" that hinder the further mechanization of agriculture. The training of tractor and combine operators is inadequate and school attendance is below expectations. In Rostov oblast, for example, things have reached such a pass that the machine-tractor stations are unable to fulfill their collective agreements with the kolkhozes due to the lack of qualified machine operators. The oblast as a whole in fact, failed to live up to its obligations last year, and, as the paper points out, it appears that the local government "did not learn the correct lesson" from last year's mistakes. A similar situation is said to exist in Krasnoyarsk krai and in Kemerovo, Kursk and Molotov oblasts where the poor quality of training in the mechanization schools is aggravated by the failure to recruit the "required number" of farmer-students. The latter deficiency, PRAVDA suggests, can be remedied by recruiting women kolkhozniks to a greater extent.

A report from Minsk lists four machine-tractor stations which "worked particularly poorly" in 1951 and warns them against a repetition of their past performance. They have shown "insufficient energy" in their work and the result was a low harvest yield. The latter point, however, is not elaborated. The stations mentioned are Krupki, Oktiabrskaya, Partizanskaya and Khotimskaya. VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA (4 Jan.) speaks of the "alarming signals" (trevozhnie signaly) which may indicate a repetition of past mistakes: the repairs of machinery are lagging behind, and very little is done about it. The violation of agro-technical rules by a number of machine-tractor stations, says the paper, accounts for last year's harvest failure. The editorial insists that "all tractors" should work at least two shifts a day, that idling periods be eliminated and that collective agreements be rigidly adhered to. Taking up the subject again on 8 January, the paper admits that the quality of tractor repairs in the oblast as a whole is "still extremely low" and that "this situation clearly has serious consequences." This is particularly true of the Kemenskaya, Chepitskaya, Kutabratskaya, Nekhodovskaya, Pukhnovskaya, Myaskaya, Sodbenskaya and Milukovskaya stations. The mechanization school attendance in some of them is said to be less than half of the planned figure. The frequent breakdowns of machinery, on the other hand, testify to the poor quality of training, according to the paper.

A report from Kiev (5 Jan.) quotes RADYANSKA UKRAINA as saying that the repair and maintenance of farm machinery in the republic's machine-tractor stations are "not on a high level" but offers no further details. A Konstantinov article in KRASNY KRYM (13 Jan.) refers to the "alarming news...on grave violations of established repair methods" as practiced in an unspecified number of the oblast machine-tractor stations. The author urges a "decisive fight against the bungling workmen" who install used piston rings instead of new ones and fail to grind the valves when overhauling the machinery.

The organization of collective-farm personnel training is "exceedingly unsatisfactory in many rayons, and in a number of others there is no training at all, according to VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA of 13 January. In Zharkovsky, Loknyansky, Belsky, Leninsky, Podberezinsky and several other rayons the whole training system is said to be "threatened with failure" (ugrozhayet proval). Lack of publicity given to agricultural education and the resultant lukewarm attitude on the part of the prospective students account for the near failure, according to the editorial:

> The achievements of the foremost workers are given insufficient publicity...the Agricultural Administration publishes practically no pamphlets or posters...on propagation of the best achievements...the standard of teaching in many of the (agricultural) study groups is low.

Agricultural training, says SOVETSKAYA SIBIR (5 Jan.), should not be confined to mechanization workers alone, for an ignorant farm director is more of a liability than an unskilled tractor driver. The paper urges the rayon Party Committees to look into the training of farm directors which is admittedly "still unsatisfactory in many artels." Improved education, the paper hints, is a last resort--it would be much better to see to it that "not just anybody but reliable persons" with an excellent understanding of their responsibilities are selected for those jobs.

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There is little broadcast information on the progress of the livestock industry but the few items available suggest that the recent drive to provide adequate winter premises for the stock has been only partially successful. Continued losses of livestock through inadequate protection from the cold and poorly prepared fodder are occasionally admitted:

Rostov — It is time to put a decisive end to the use of fodder without preliminary preparation.... The stockbreeding directorate is also weak in its direction of the winter care of stock farms. (MOLOT, 9 Jan.)

Pskov — A number of cattle farms use hay, straw and balanced meals carelessly; they permit the stuff to be pilfered.... This state of affairs must be ended immediately. (PSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, 4 Jan.)

Minsk — Many provinces are still lagging behind in the implementation of the plan. Owing to the neglect in feeding and maintenance, large numbers of livestock perish. (ZVEZDA, 2 Jan.)

Novosibirsk — In some places agro-zootechnical education is not organized successfully and the care of livestock is far from being satisfactory everywhere. (SOVETSKAYA SIBIR, 10 Jan.)

Stalingrad — At many kolkhozes the care and feeding of stock is still being carried out in an uneconomical manner...the condition of stock is deteriorating and its productivity is being reduced. (11 Jan.)

Setbacks in the planting and harvesting of sugar beets are reported in general terms from Kirghiz SSR and the Ukraine. A PRAVDA article by Lukin (12 January, not broadcast) reveals that not a single rayon in Kirghizia completed its harvest plan last year and that the situation is not much better this year since "the work of the beet growers is characterized by much confusion" (mnogo putanitsy nabludayetsia v organizatsii truda sveklovodov). Thousands of centners of sugar beets are reported to have been frozen on the ground last year through sheer negligence and the collective farmers suffered great losses (kolkhozy ponesli bolshie ubytki). RADYANSKA UKRAINA (15 Jan.) exhorts the beet growers to "eliminate the reasons for low yields" and take the necessary steps towards the liquidation of shortchomings. This, says the paper, applies particularly to Kiev, Poltava and Kirovograd oblasts in addition to the many rayons and kolkhozes beyond them.

The annual distribution of collective farm profits, according to PRAVDA (14 Jan.), should take into account the interests of the community first and those of the individual farmer last. Allocations of monetary profits for the undistributed fund and produce for sales purposes must be made before the balance can be distributed among the farmers. Any digression from the order of distributing profits (otstuplenie ot poriadka raspredelenia pribylei), the paper infers, is tantamount to an artel charter violation. Such violations are said to have occurred in Tambov, Penza and some other regions.

INDUSTRY

The optimism generated by the frequent reports on industrial production achievements is not fully shared by PRAVDA (3 Jan.) which reminds industry that quantity production alone is not enough. The paper refers to what might be construed as a race for high production indices "with complete disregard for quality." This, it regretfully declares, has even become the main objective of socialist competition sponsored by the trade unions. As discussed in previous CPW reports, the tendency among various industrial enterprises to conceal a variety of local shortcomings behind impressive "total" figures was officially noted last year, and much PRAVDA criticism has since been directed against that practice. The above-mentioned editorial is again specific on that subject:

> It must always be remembered that...each enterprise must fulfill the state plan in all its aspects. It must always be remembered that the state needs not just any fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plan...

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Taking up the topic again on 15 January, PRAVDA reemphasizes the importance of quality production by referring to it as the number one target of socialist competition. The coal, steel, building, timber and chemical industries are inferentially referred to as neglecting quality in favor of quantity production, and are urged to pay more attention to the efficiency of both labor and machinery:

> Many enterprises fulfill their plans for quantity at the expense of quality; little attention is paid to the government directives for range of goods and variety; there is waste of fuel, power, raw material and (production) of sub-standard goods. It is high time to put an end to such antistate practices.

The workers of the light and food industries, the editorial concludes, must also strive to raise the quality of their production.

Low production quality is also the subject of a MOLOT editorial (6 Jan.). The huge 'Rosselmash' agricultural machine-building plant, the Budenny plant and an unspecified number of others are said to have "sustained big losses" last year. Although there is no reference to their present performance, the paper cautions those plant managers against "permitting similar occurrences" and urges less production wastes and more socialist competition now.

VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA (6 and 9 Jan.) discusses the operations of the oblast lumber trusts and finds them on the whole unsatisfactory. Some of the enterprises, the paper complains, habitually lag behind the plan, and toward the end of the season resort to the old "fits and jerks" methods of work (shturmovshchina) to make up for lost time. The output of the Velikoluk-les Stroy and other lumber trusts was so insignificant that it "considerably lowered the overall production average" for the entire oblast. The Krasnogorodsky and Serezhinsky timber production centers which managed to complete "just over 50%" of the plan last year are said to be doing an extremely bad job now by producing 60 to 70 cubic meters of lumber daily instead of the 500 specified in the plan.

A Vavilov article in PRAVDA (8 January, not broadcast) takes issue with the USSR Ministry for Machine and Instrument Making for juggling figures to show higher production indices. Referring to an unnamed instrument plant in Moscow, Vavilov points out that although the production of power and other tools last November was only 37 to 38 percent of the plan, the plant management had no particular difficulty in showing 104 percent performance for that month. The secret of that paper success, says the author, is the actual above-plan performance in the production of a certain type of watches (khodiki) which was utilized to produce "an outwardly favorable picture" (chisto vneshneye blagopoluchie).

STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (9 Jan.) bemoans the "big losses of all kinds" that still occur at the local industrial plants because of inexpert and insufficient use of equipment. Big wastes of compressed air and excessive consumption of water and steam, says the paper, have become a common feature of their operation. The city water supply administration alone managed to overspend (pereraskhodovat) 1,000,000 kilowatt-hours of power in 1951. Much will have to be done, the editorial concludes, if the city's industry is to save 20,000,000 kilowatts of power in 1952 as had been promised. This promise-and-fulfillment theme is pursued by the paper on 10 January, and the outlook, according to it, is anything but encouraging. Collective undertakings (kollektivnie obyazatelstva--promised above-plan production), it reminds its readers, are not to be trifled with--they are as important as the plan itself. It is revealed, however, that far from honoring their "collective promise," a number of plants did not even fulfill their State plan. Among them are the Stalingrad Tractor Plant, the Krasny Oktiabr Plant, the Stalingrad Shipping Wharf, the Stalingrad Power Station and others.

Scrap methal collection, according to a review carried by ZARYA VOSTOKA (6 Jan.), is a permanent and important feature of the Soviet industry. Although the 1951 targets were reached, the efforts are not to be relaxed in 1952:

> The collection and delivery of scrap should be considered by the heads of the enterprises as one of their top priority tasks--on a level with the fulfillment of the production plan.

Russian version:

> Rukovoditeli predpriatiy dolzhny rasmatrivat sbor i sdachu loma kak odnu is pervo-ocherednykh zadach--naravne s vypolneniem proizvodstvennogo plans.

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RAILROADS

A PRAVDA article by Communications Minister Beshchev (2 January, not broadcast) lists several railroad lines which are still behind the plan in carloadings, scheduled operations in general, and which are slow in the completion of new construction projects (vvod v ekspluatatsiu novykh stroitelnykh ob'ektov). Thus the Kuibyshev South-Ural, East Siberian, Krasnoyarsk, Turk-Sib, Ryazan-Ural, Orenburg and Tashkent lines are reported to have completed the overall loading plan (obschiy plan pogruzki) but failed in regard to the most important freight (vazhneishiy narodnokhozaistvenny gruz). The Primorye, Turk-Sib, Transbaikal, East Siberian, Azerbaijan and Ashkhabad lines are lagging behind the car turnover plan. Discussing this topic on 10 January PRAVDA is somewhat more specific about the shortcomings to which Beshchev made only passing reference. The Sverdlovsk line, says the paper, is not fulfilling the metal and ore loading plan; the Kazan and Turk-Sib lines are behind in their grain hauling and the Krasnoyarsk and East Siberian Lines are short of timber shipment targets. Socialist competition on the Transbaikal railroad line has practically come to a standstill, and the Chita oblast Party Committee is "severely criticized" because the "500-mile a day" movement of the locomotive engineers (mashinisty-piatisotniki) "had...been stopped" on that line.

PARTY ACTIVITIES

Most of the criticism leveled at the Party activities from the oblast to the primary organization level is familiar except for the general inefficiency in the Party school network which is more heavily stressed than usual. A report from Minsk (2 Jan.) speaks of the "insufficiently high theoretical level" of studies in the oblast Party schools and study circles and suggests a radical improvement. PRAVDA (4 Jan.) upbraids the Krasnoyarsk krai Komsomol for "forgetting their responsibility" for bringing up the youth in the Marxist-Leninist spirit and failing to exercise proper leadership of political education.

There is an apparent reluctance to admit new members to the Komsomol organizations in Sarotov and Kursk oblasts and this is also dealt with in denunciatory terms by STALINGRADSKAY PRAVDA on 6 January. The paper refers to "completely unbelievable" cases of young men who were accepted as candidates for Party membership 8 to 12 years ago and have not yet gone beyond the candidate stage. In the Traktorozavodsk Party organization more than half of the candidates hold expired cards and no one seems to take any interest in them. A large number of "such candidates" is said to be found also in the Mikhailovsk, Komsomolsk, Kletsk and other Party organizations.

More than 100 secretaries of Komsomol organizations were exposed at the report and election meetings as derelict in their duties in Chernigov oblast alone, according to RADYANSKA UKRAINA of 4 January. Their major sin is what the paper calls the underestimation of the importance of political education among the youth. This, the editorial continues, is "a warning to the Party organizations" against a "formal" attitude towards Communist education. Extremely unsatisfactory also is the paper's verdict in the case of the political education in the Komsomols in Kirovograd oblast. Verkhovsky in PRAVDA (10 January, not broadcast) tells of the negligent attitude toward group and individual Marxist-Leninist studies in Vladimir oblast. Cited in this connection is the Vladimir oblast Agricultural Administration where the Party secretary, to make a good showing, enrolled every available Communist for political studies without consulting him or looking into his qualifications.

RABOCHIY PUT (10 Jan.) urges more initiative on the part of kolkhoz Party organizations which have been greatly expanded following the collective farm merger in the oblast. The paper admits, however, that the tendency of their parent rayon Party committees is either to restrain their activities or to by-pass them altogether. In a number of rayons the kolkhoz Party organizations are still directed "in the old way" without taking into account the changed situation resulting from the merger. TAMBOVSKAYA PRAVDA (11 Jan.) reveals that the education of primary Party secretaries in the oblast has all but failed. In one rayon--Bondarsky--these secretaries were practically forgotten by their mentors. Only two one-day seminars were held for them in the past 10 months, and these were attended by only half of the Party secretaries.

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The Central Committee of the Georgian Komsomol comes in for severe criticism by ZARYA VOSTOKA (5 Jan.) for its "insufficient guidance" of Marxist-Leninist education, lack of contact with local activities and failure to "visit and to give practical assistance to" the rayon committees. Other Party shortcomings ranging in definition from poor leadership to weak links with the masses are reported from the following areas:

Izmail — The newspaper subjects to severe criticism the Party organizations which are adopting a formal attitude toward the education of Communists (PRIDUNAYSKAYA PRAVDA, 4 Jan.).

Pskov — It often happens that some primary Communist organizations and rayon committees forget the necessity of maintaining close links with the masses.... (PSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, 5 Jan.).

Orel — No theoretical and methodical help is given to propagandists in Volodarsky, Mokhovsky and Dolgorukovsky rayons (ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA, 13 Jan.).

TERRITORIAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

The Communist Party Statute (partiyny ustav) provides for the formation of territorial Party organizations in sparsely-populated rural areas where no other Party organs are available. Included in the membership of those organizations are rural office workers and teachers as well members of outlying kolkhozes not under the jurisdiction of other Party organizations. Occupying a peculiar place in the Party chain of command, the territorial Party organizations are frequently left out of the normal Party activities and, according to SOVETSKAYA SIBIR of 11 January, even put out of existence. The paper admits that the territorial organizations are not classed as "production type" and therefore have no control over the economic activities of the administration. This, however, should not deter them from "influencing" the administration through political work among the collective farmers and others. Some Party committees, particularly in Novosibirsk rayon, have indeed gone so far as to liquidate the territorial organizations without reference to the Statute or to higher authorities:

> About six months ago SOVETSKAYA SIBIR pointed out the liquidation of territorial Party organizations in the rayon. Up to now, the rayon Party committee has not corrected the mistake.

IDEOLOGICAL WEAKNESSES

PRAVDA (9 Jan.) is somewhat less than enthusiastic about the ideological and artistic aspects of the 1958 All-Union Arts Exhibition now being held in Moscow. Referring to the speed with which some of the exhibits had been completed, the paper declares that "haste is in no way justified and deserves the highest condemnation." This applies to a number of literary exhibits as well, since the publication of "immature books" is not conducive to creative upsurge. There are "extremely weak paintings" among the exhibits, the paper continues, which fail to come up to the people's expectation. What they lack in common, it appears, is <u>completeness</u> (zavershennost), that is, they fail to glorify the great Stalin era.

The textbooks and the teaching methods of a number of Ukrainian-language teachers still "do not deeply reflect" the close ties between the Russian and Ukrainian literature, charges RADYANSKA UKRAINA on 10 January. The editorial stresses the necessity of identifying "the proximity and sameness" of the two languages and pointing out the beneficial influence of the Russian-language upon the Ukrainian:

> In many cases Ukrainian-language teachers are not satisfactorily explaining the proximity and sameness of the vocabulary of the Ukrainian and Russian languages, and they are not showing how the Ukrainian language is developing as a result of the noble influence upon it of the Russian language.

Ukrainian version:

> Vryadi vypadkiv vchiteli ukrainskoi movy slabo roskryvayut blizkist i odnoridnist slovnikovogo skladu ukrainskoi ta rossiyskoi movy, ne pokazuyut yak zbogachuyetsia suchasna ukrainska mova v resultati blagotvornogo vplyvu na neyu rossiyskoi movy.

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RADYANSKA ZHITOMIRSHCHINA (9 Jan.) looks into the performance of the oblast philharmonic society, stage and puppet theaters and finds them wanting: "the portrayal of the Soviet man is not good." The age-long friendship between the Russian and Ukrainian peoples is "not reflected" in the music or on the stage, and the glorification of Soviet patriotism is conspicuously missing. This, the paper concludes, is a "harmful practice" and should be discontinued.

A TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA report carried by PRAVDA on 11 January (not broadcast) discusses the plenary session of the Central Committee of Turkmenia's Party called to investigate un-Communist sentiments in the Republic. The number one item on the plenum's agenda was a book called THE VICTORY OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM IN NORTHERN TURKMENISTAN 1917-1936 authored by Nepesov and sponsored by the Turkmenian Academy of Sciences. The contents of the book are not revealed but the publication is said to be harmful (vrednoye), and the Propaganda Section of the Central Party Committee must therefore "bear a large share of the responsibility" for its appearance in print. It is said to "minimize" the role played by the October Revolution in the "historic destinies" of the Turkmenian people, idealize the feudal nobility and present a distorted picture of the "basmachi" (Central Asian bandits of the 19th century). The book is characterized as replete with "great mistakes of a bourgeois-nationalist nature," reactionary and of a "perverse essence" (porochnaya sushchnost).

Indirectly involved in the publication of Nepesov's book are the vice-president of the Turkmenian Academy of Sciences--"who failed to look into the affairs of the Writers Union"--and the head of the Turkmenian State University, Azimov, who "tried to slur over" (pytalsia zatushevat) the bourgeois-nationalist errors made by the author. Among the other ideological weak spots highlighted at the session is the "atmosphere of officiousness and domesticity" (obstanovka ugodnichestva i semeistvennosti) prevailing within the Republic's Administration for Publications. "Serious shortcomings" are also said to have been uncovered in the activities of the theaters, the Republican Committee on Arts, newspapers and periodicals.

The Kazakh Writers Union, a target of frequent official criticism, is again reminded that it is not toeing the Party line. Kazakh literature, says KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (11 Jan.), still lags behind the general level of Soviet literature. This is because the poets and lyricists have failed to produce any books wherein the main hero is the Soviet man. Sharply criticized is the Union's "atmosphere of unbearable flattery and unreasonable praise of worthless works" which tend to stunt the ideological growth of young authors. The editorial concludes with the suggestion that only a "basic reconstruction" (korennoye pereustroistvo) of all the activities of the Writers' Union would materially improve the situation.

Referring to the ideological theme in a different context on 15 January, the same paper refers to the lingering "nationalistic influences" in Kazakh literature and linguistics and the insignificant attention paid to the "common struggle" of the Kazakh and Russian people against foreign invaders. Scientific research in the Republic is said to be progressing very slowly--particularly in metalography, metalophysics and microbiology--due to the low ideological level of the scientific cadres. All this, the paper infers, points in the same direction--something must be done about it:

> Ideological perversity and errors of a bourgeois-nationalist nature in historical science must be thoroughly uprooted...lagging behind in linguistics cannot be tolerated. Linguistics must be completely freed from Marr's (devastating) mistakes.

Russian version:

> Nado do kontsa iskorenit ideologicheskie izvrashchenia i oshibki burzhuazno-ideologicheskogo kharactera v istoricheskoi nauke... nelzya miritsia s otstavaniem v oblasti yazykoznania. Nuzhno polnostyu osvobodit yazykoznanie ot (pulverizatorskikh) oshibok Mara.

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CHILDREN'S EDUCATION STILL INADEQUATE

PRAVDA (7 Jan.) calls for a "serious discussion" of the shortcomings still existing in many of the country's schools. Instruction in mathematics, literature, history and geography is still poor in a number of places and accounts for the insufficient preparation of the students for advanced studies. The Omsk oblast is said to be the worst of the lot but large-scale school failings are also attributed to Kurgan oblast, Altai krai and the Daghestan and Tadjik Republics.

Reflecting PRAVDA's attitude, a number of regional transmitters have taken up the discussion of children's education and discovered that it warrants close investigation. Thus SOVETSKAYA SIBIR (10 Jan.) reveals that the number of successful school students in the oblast "remains extremely low" and that about two thirds of the backward students usually fail in Russian. A report from Alma Ata (10 Jan.) says that a general improvement in the work of the primary and seven-grade schools of the Republic is long overdue. It has been noted, says Atrashtov in KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA of 11 January, that inadequate general education limits the technical efficiency of the workers. According to VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA (11 Jan.), the number of students in some rayons failing in Russian and mathematics is as high as 30 percent. A KOMMUNIST editorial (13 Jan.) discloses that of the 9,768 students in Saratov town 1,700 fail in various subjects, mostly in the Russian language, mathematics, physics and history.

MISCELLANEOUS

An apparatus for joining severed blood vessels and limbs with tantalum wire clips was invented by engineer Gurov, according to a report from Pskov. (2 Jan.) Perfected in 1950, the instrument is now in common use by the leading surgeons of the USSR. This invention is said to have enabled Soviet scientists, for the first time in the history of science, to restore the function of a severed limb of an animal.

The first combine harvester in the world, according to Acad. Danilevsky (Nikolayev, 10 January), was invented by a Russian in 1869--ten years before the "American variety" of that machine made its appearance in the United States.

Experimental gas-turbine locomotives, says a report from Moscow on 7 January, are already being designed and built. In the future, gas turbines will undoubtedly be used for motor lorries and ships.

A Vasiliev article in SLAVYANE carried by TASS for abroad on 1 January speaks of the sentimental ties between the Slavs residing in Uruguay and their "native land" (rodina): "Far from their native land, the Slavs retain the language, customs, habits and culture of their people and display a profound interest in the life of their Motherland. This is helped by the Union of Slavs...."

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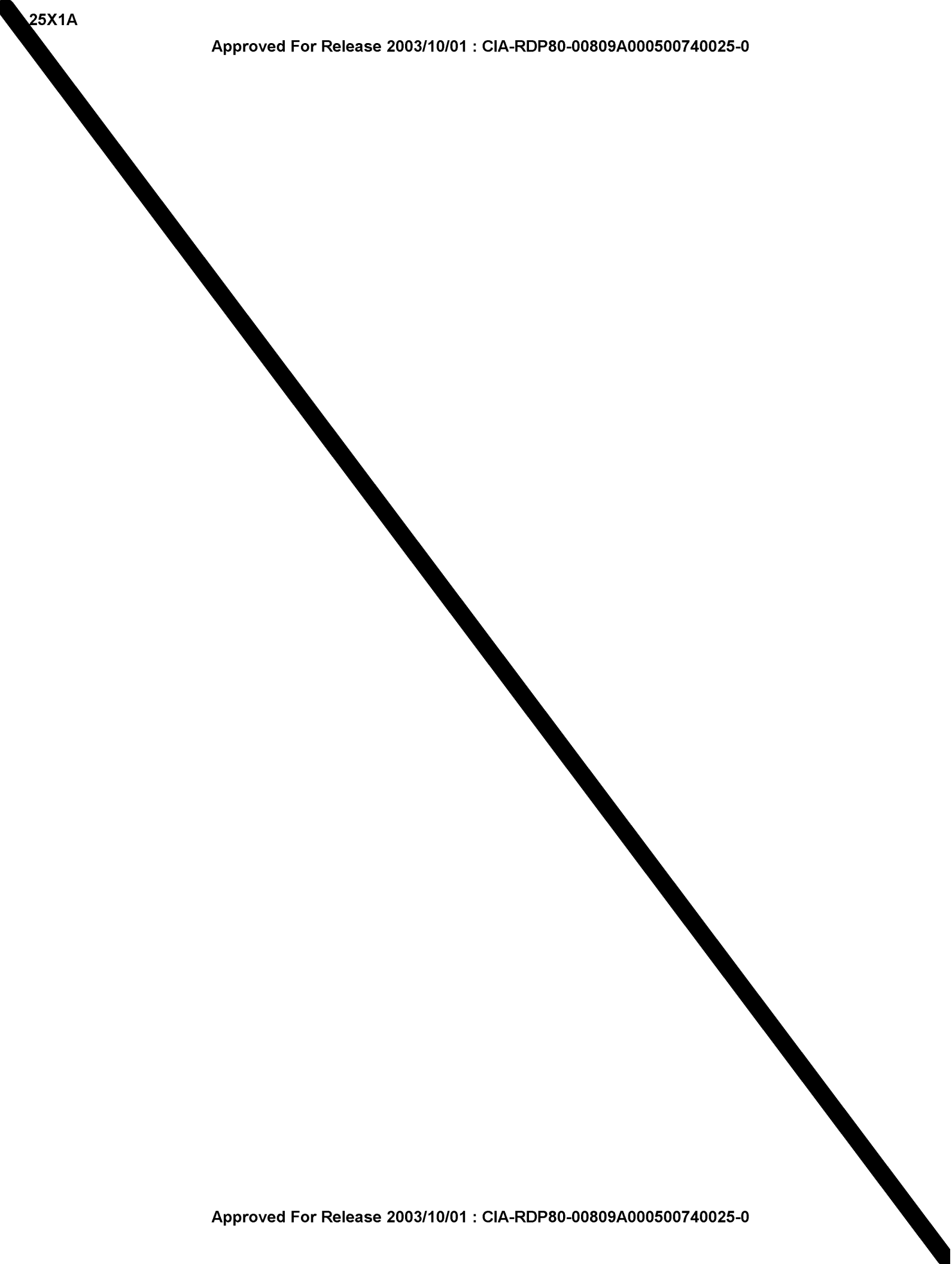

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